

but that is a coarser form with very large loose inflorescences and scattered flowers, while the Van Buren plant is low and slender with small inflorescences of closely approximate flowers.

The plant, here proposed as a new variety and dedicated to Mr. Williams who was first to call attention to its peculiar habit, is not confined to the St. John valley, as identical specimens were collected at Edgeworth, Malden, Massachusetts, by the late Wm. Boott in 1853. Its characters, clearly shown in the plate generously prepared by Mr. Charles E. Faxon, are here briefly summarized:

JUNCUS TENUIS, Willd., var. **Williamsii**. Very slender, 2 to 4 dm. high: bracts mostly 2 or 3, at least one overtopping the narrow oblong (2.5 to 8 cm. long) inflorescence: branches mostly wide-spreading or slightly recurved, 1 to 2 cm. long, closely 3-6-flowered, strongly secund: mature capsule equalling the perianth.—MAINE, Van Buren, July 19, 1900 (*Emile F. Williams*): MASSACHUSETTS, Edgeworth, Malden, July 19, 1853 (*Wm. Boott*, in Herb. N. E. Bot. Club).

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 23.—*Juncus tenuis* var. *Williamsii*: fig. 1, portion of an original specimen from Van Buren; fig. 2, mature capsule, enlarged; fig. 3, sheath with prolonged scarious auricle, enlarged. *J. tenuis*: fig. 4, inflorescence of a plant from New Haven, Connecticut. *J. tenuis*, var. *anthelatus*: fig. 5, inflorescence of an original specimen from Hartford, Maine.

A COLONY OF WAIFS OF THE HELIANTHOIDEAE.—In 1896 I discovered in an old field in Oxford, Connecticut, *Helianthus rigidus*, Desf., and *H. grosse-serratus*, Martens. In 1897 or 1898 I found *Heliopsis scabra*, Dunal, close at hand, and as I passed through the field in August of this year my eye was caught by an unfamiliar flower, which proved to be *Lepachys pinnata*, Torr. & Gray. The field was under cultivation some eight or ten years ago, and has since been used mostly as a pasture. Seeds of these western species were doubtless brought here with grain, but it seems remarkable to find a group of four so nearly related plants so far from their range and persisting through so long a time. Of the four *Helianthus rigidus* seems most at home, although the most western in its natural range. It grows over an area of nearly half an acre in several patches and seems to be increasing from year to year. *H. grosse-serratus* grows mixed with the last in four small patches and seems to be decreasing, as is also *Heliopsis scabra*, of which there are not more than a dozen plants. Of the *Lepachys* I have seen but a single clump of ten flowering stalks.—E. B. HARGER, Oxford, Connecticut.